



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Riverside speaks out on State theft of local redevelopment money

Riverside, California – Yesterday the state legislature voted to support a two bill strategy which would first eliminate redevelopment and then provide an exemption from elimination for any redevelopment agency that agrees to make specified payments to the State.

As Mayor of the City of Riverside I want to first thank our local legislators that support redevelopment, but express my strong disappointment in the others that voted to support the two bill strategy. The consequences to Riverside are devastating.

This approach:

- Will not provide expected budget relief to the State or local governments after bond issues and contractual obligations are repaid;
- Will destroy billions of dollars in local economic activity and hundreds of thousands of jobs;
- Will kill the state's leading program to provide affordable housing;
- Will harm our efforts to grow responsibly by focusing on urban and infill development;
- Will increase urban sprawl and push development to Greenfields and open space; and
- Thwarts the will of the people who overwhelming voted to approve Proposition 22 last November expressly protecting redevelopments funds from State use.

At a time when the nation and the world fear a double dip recession, it is unconscionable that the State Legislature would vote to shut down our most powerful job-creating tool. Current redevelopment projects in Riverside are providing hundreds of construction jobs and providing real economic benefit to the City right now. The State's action will remove millions of dollars of locally generated funds from our local economy and send those funds to Sacramento.

"I call on Gov. Jerry Brown to do the right thing and veto AB 1X 26 and AB 1X 27 and help put California back on a road to economic recovery," said Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge.

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